

OPERATIONS GROUP FILE

LOGNOTE -- Chief, Operations Group, 25 November 1980

1. [] called this morning to report that BBC had been very pleased with their visit to FBIS Headquarters. They also were hot to trot to send [] back to Islamabad to recruise the monitoring site. I said we were not high on this idea at all, that if we had to recruise we'd send [] over from Nicosia; he understands our formats, knows the target languages and is closer to the site. I told [] that I felt London should take initiative in guiding the Islamabad output now that they can talk over the circuit. He could start with feeding in the three Kabul programs BBC wants while the Russian regionals, which are not time-sensitive, could be fed through in the open intervals. I said I felt we were going to have to handle the circuit much like the VCVC but London should be careful not to saturate it with Kabul or other BBC targets. I suggested they should guide [] by talking over the line on the frequency changes affecting his regional programs. Hopefully, with a little trial and error, this should do the trick as we'd prefer not to recruise Islamabad until the seasonal changes later next year.

I mentioned that we didn't feel the Central Asian Russian regionals could be handled in quite the way BBC was used to dealing with regional broadcasts, as the minorities issues were the major interest here.

[] will coordinate providing guidance to London. London is sending in program summaries and these will be scanned for thematic interest on the minorities issues.

(cc: D/FBIS, C/AG, C/FCS, C/DRD, C/EDSS)

STAT

STAT

STAT

STAT

STAT

STAT